

Amendments to the Claims:

1-57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80% ~~amino acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

59. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 85% ~~amino acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

60. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 90% ~~amino-acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616,
wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

61. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% ~~amino-acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616,
wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

62. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 58 comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 99% ~~amino-acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;

- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

63. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616.

64. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59.

65. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59)~~ of SEQ ID NO:59, lacking its associated signal peptide.

66. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:59 ~~shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59).~~

67. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:59 shown in Figure 24 (SEQ ID NO:59), lacking its associated signal peptide.

68. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209616.

69. (previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 58 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

70. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 69, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.